

Wilmot comprise the backbone of our State. These communities are built on hard work and solid values and serve as a reminder of South Dakota's rich agricultural heritage. Wilmot is served by the Wilmot Enterprise weekly newspaper.

Even 125 years after its founding, Wilmot remains an active and vibrant community. As a way of celebrating this achievement, a "Wilmot History Book" is being compiled. This book will feature stories of all kinds about the people and events in Wilmot's past and will serve to bring this close-knit community even closer. I am proud to honor the people of Wilmot on this memorable occasion and to extend my congratulations to them.●

LOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DULUTH, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Lowell Elementary School, in Duluth, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lowell Elementary School, a music magnet school, is truly a model of educational success. In addition to a well-rounded learning experience, the school offers an exceptional music curriculum, including a choir at each grade level—kindergarten through fifth grade—piano instruction for second, third, and fourth-grade pupils, string instrument lessons for third through fifth grades, and band instruction for grades four and five.

Lowell Elementary School's success is reflected in its popularity within the Duluth community. There are 127 students on a waiting list for enrollment in Lowell, including children for future kindergarten enrollment. An English language learner program is housed in the building, serving 33 to 38 students per year from 10 different countries. A 21st Century Program, which involves a partnership between Lowell and the YMCA, provides on-site daily mentoring and tutoring services after school until 6:00 p.m., for pupils in grades K through 5.

Parents further attest to Lowell's success. Joan Lancour states:

My child has attended Lowell for the past three years. During this time, my child, Chris, has received extra help from all staff that he never received at other schools. The staff have helped him to gain confidence through the music program . . . Over these past three years I have seen him take strides to become an independent student through the excellent training of Lowell staff and administrators.

Another mother, Sue Wright, adds:

We feel very fortunate to have the enrichment of music in our children's education. The benefits of the extra music opportunities have shown in their academic success. Lowell is a positive school with very dedicated students, staff and parents. It has been a wonderful place for my family to begin a lifelong education.

Much of the credit for Lowell Elementary School's success belongs to its

principal, Monte Wittman, and to the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Lowell Elementary School understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Lowell Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Lowell Elementary School in Duluth for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TUSCOLA COUNTY FAIR

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the Tuscola, Michigan County Fair as it celebrates its 125th anniversary. The Tuscola County Fair, in existence since 1881, showcases the local agricultural community in addition to other attractions, is an important contributor to the local economy, and entertains thousands of fairgoers of all ages each year.

The fair, which first took place the year President Garfield was assassinated, generates more than \$2 million of activity in the county. The impetus to locate a fair in Caro, MI, was the desire of agricultural groups in the area to display their harvest, livestock, home canning and baked goods, flowers and needlework, and of local merchants and other industries to demonstrate new products and machinery for the farm and home.

Over the years, the Tuscola County Fair has experienced several milestones. The fair first showed a profit in 1891, and in 1892, a half-mile clay track was constructed. Interestingly, while the track was intended for sulky races, in 1924, female jockeys raced Kentucky thoroughbreds every day of the fair. In 1896, a new Agricultural Hall was constructed to showcase the agricultural industry. In addition, the Fair Office, the oldest building still standing, was constructed in 1917, and in 1920, the present "Heritage Hall" was constructed. During World War II, the fairgrounds were used to house German prisoners, who worked to help the local sugar industry that was so vital to our war effort. More recently, in 1981, the Historical Society of Michigan designated the fairgrounds a historical site.

Many people have contributed to the success of the Tuscola County Fair, including Emery J. Vandemark, the longest serving board member, the treasurer for 28 years, and the current 13-year President; the late Jay Kitchen, past president; Walter Jackson, president of the fair board and active 4-H member; James Fitzgerald, past president; Jerry Vandemark, longtime fundraiser; and longtime members Waldo

Garner, Robert Nowland, Walter Putnam, and Frank Altizer, among many others.

The fair organizers and the many dedicated volunteers over the years have played an integral role in ensuring the success of the fair, and I know my colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating all those who have contributed to the fair for their efforts.●

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CLOQUET, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Washington Elementary School, in Cloquet, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Washington Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school's teachers and administrators are to be applauded for their leadership in helping children understand the harmful consequences of bullying other students. Its Bullying Prevention Program is one of the best in the State.

The effort to address bullying at Washington Elementary began last year, after students were surveyed about their thoughts and attitudes toward a variety of school safety matters. Their responses to four key questions were significant: 22 percent of all pupils reported having been bullied at least two to three times per month; 62 percent said that when they see bullying they want to help, if only they knew what to do; children in grades 3 through 5 are the most often bullied; and the three places where bullying most frequently occurs are on the playground, in the lunchroom, and on the bus.

All licensed and nonlicensed staff at Washington Elementary received training using the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. Staff learned what bullying is and how they can put an end to it. They learned how to teach students to recognize a bully and what steps to take when they encounter one. They learned that most bullying is not physical, but rather uses verbal taunts, and excludes and degrades the victim. Children who are bullied have lower self-esteem, more absences, and more anxiety, along with depression and thoughts of suicide.

The Bullying Prevention Program at Washington Elementary School has become a communitywide effort. Mailings were sent home to parents. Local business leaders, the mayor, the police chief, the media, and other local dignitaries participated in a "Kick-off Celebration" held earlier this school year. The program's slogan is, "Take a Bite Out of Bullying"; the University of Minnesota—Duluth Bulldog serves as the program's mascot.

The school community is rightly proud of the results. Children are coming to school feeling safer. Attendance

is up. And the school climate has improved. The Bullying Prevention Program has been featured in local newspaper stories. High school students have come to Washington Elementary to perform skits on the bullying theme, and this May the CLIMB Theater group completed a 3-day residency on bullying.

In addition, the school can take pride in its Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment test scores. Last year, the school received four-star ratings in both reading and math from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Much of the credit for Washington Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Randy Thudin, and to the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Washington Elementary School understand that in order to be successful a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Washington Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Washington Elementary School in Cloquet for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK MICHAELS

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Jack Michaels, a decorated veteran and a lifelong advocate for veterans and disabled persons and their families all over the country. It has been my sincere pleasure to work with him to forward these efforts and I wish him all the best in his retirement from his post as Executive Director of the Northwest Paralyzed Veterans Association. His remarkable record of service reminds us all that one person's efforts can improve the lives of many.

The effects of Jack's advocacy can be felt in many ways. Jack served courageously as a Captain in the United States Army from 1966 to 1971 and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Purple Heart, and other honors. After being shot down in combat and incurring a severe spinal cord injury, Jack realized his service to the United States was far from over; rather, it was just beginning.

We see Jack's influence in our national civil rights legislation. During Jack's tenure as the National President of Paralyzed Veterans of America, he worked tirelessly to facilitate the passage of landmark civil rights legislation, the Americans with Disabilities Act.

We see Jack's influence in the Puget Sound area. He provides expertise in accessibility and has served on public projects including Safeco Field, Seahawks Stadium, Benayora and McCaw Halls, and Seattle's new City Hall and Regional Justice Center, just to name a few. His leadership enabled

the Northwest Paralyzed Veterans Association to provide expertise to enable Amtrak's Cascades to become the first fully accessible train in America. His continued efforts to make SeaTac International Airport more accessible for the disabled will result in a new over-sized disabled passenger vehicle parking lot to be dedicated by Memorial Day this spring.

We see Jack's influence in Seattle's public transportation system. While working with the Washington Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, of which he was a co-founder, and the Northwest Chapter Paralyzed Veterans of America, which he founded, Jack advocated for a totally accessible public transit system, which became a reality at King's County METRO 20 years later.

We see Jack's influence in the lives of hundreds of disabled veterans, for whom he has delivered, often personally, adaptive equipment in a donation program he created that provides free wheelchairs and hospital beds to those in need.

Throughout his service and advocacy, Jack never forgot his brothers and sisters in arms, both past and present. Through his words and his works, Jack constantly reminded American policymakers and citizens alike of the bravery, honor, and sacrifice military service entails. He reminded us of our national obligation to take care of our veteran population and to create a system with the capacity to provide for future veterans. He reminds us that the absolute least we can do to thank the courageous men and women who put their lives in jeopardy every day to protect our rights is provide for them and their families when their service is complete. With the aging Vietnam and Korean war veteran population and ever growing number of Iraq veterans returning home, it is on all of us to continue Jack's work for veterans and never to forget the example he set.

You might notice the frequent use of a single word throughout this recounting of Jack's military and civilian experience: served. Jack dedicated his life to service, first when he volunteered for the Army, then in countless other volunteer and advocacy endeavors. He gave his time and expertise in exchange for the satisfaction of effecting change and improving the lives of others, many of whom he may never meet. Rather than react with anger or despair to his harrowing combat injury, Jack treated it as a call to action. Jack's work has given opportunity to thousands of veterans and disabled Americans and left a legacy of service that will continue to touch lives for decades to come.●

WEBSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA, CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Webster, SD. The town of Webster will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Day County, Webster was founded in 1881 and named after one of its first settlers, J.B. Webster. Webster has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions for the next 125 years.

I offer my congratulations to Webster on their anniversary and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7601. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a free trade agreement between the United States and the Republic of Peru; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7602. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Supplemental Security Income; Collection of Overdue Program and Administrative Debts Using Federal Salary Offset" (RIN0960-AE89) received on July 17, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7603. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effect of Elections in Certain Multi-Step Transactions" ((RIN1545-BB68)(TD 9271)) received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7604. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Field Directive on Asset Class and Depreciation for Casino Construction Costs" received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7605. A communication from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Disclosure of Return Information by Certain Officers and Employees for Investigative Purposes" ((RIN1545-BB16)(TD 9274)) received on July 13, 2006; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7606. A communication from the Interim Staff Director, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2005 Annual Report and Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7607. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Saddle Rock-Malibu Viticultural Areas" ((RIN1513-AB15)(T.D. TTB-52)) received on July 18, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7608. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of the Alta Mesa, Borden Ranch, Clements Hills, Cosumnes River, Jahant, Mokelumne River, and Sloughhouse Viticultural Areas"